



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

March 22, 2010

John Auerdadh, MBA
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02108-4619

Dear Mr. Auerdadh:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been working with state and local health departments and other government agencies to prevent and respond to West Nile virus (WNV) and other medically important arboviral diseases. Over the last ten years, CDC has awarded close to \$200 million in support to state and local health departments for vector-borne disease prevention and control activities. CDC awarded approximately \$199,000 to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for vector-borne disease activities in fiscal year 2009. Collaborative efforts between CDC and state and local health departments have dramatically increased capacity at the national, state, and local levels to identify and respond to outbreaks of endemic or newly introduced arboviral pathogens.

Although CDC's appropriations for fiscal year 2011 have not been finalized, the President's budget for 2011 eliminates the \$26.7 million funding line for vector-borne disease prevention and control. At this time CDC is unable to ascertain the amount of support, if any, states will receive to support these activities. The proposed change in funding may also reduce CDC's ability to collaborate with external partners on applied research, outbreak response, the coordination and publication of surveillance data, diagnostic training, validation of test results, proficiency testing, as well as development of new diagnostic tests, communication tools and strategies, and new prevention measures. CDC will work with states in the coming months to plan for the elimination of this funding.

We appreciate being part of a comprehensive approach to continued vector-borne disease prevention and control through partnerships at all levels of government. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Lyle Petersen, Director of the Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases at (970) 221-6428, if you have any questions. Thank you for all your work in this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

RADM Ali S. Khan, MD MPH (USPHS)
Assistant Surgeon General & Deputy Director (acting)
National Center for Emerging & Zoonotic
Infectious Diseases (proposed)
DHHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention